

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Home  
Recording  
Rights  
Coalition

ORIGINAL

September 7, 2000

RECEIVED

SEP 7 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Magalie R. Salas  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Written *Ex Parte* Presentations; *In the Matter of Compatibility Between Cable Systems and Consumer Electronics Equipment*, PP Docket No. 00-67; *In the Matter of Implementation of Section 304 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices*, CS Docket No: 97-80

Dear Ms. Salas:

The Home Recording Rights Coalition respectfully requests that the enclosed written *ex parte* package be entered into the record in the above-mentioned proceedings. The letters included in the package are copies of unique communications received by HRRC from individuals. HRRC is forwarding these to the relevant dockets as reflecting the views and interests of consumers who have become aware of the issues under consideration in both proceedings. These letters reflect the views of the individual writers exclusively and do not necessarily reflect or indicate the views of the HRRC.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, two copies of the written *ex parte* package are being provided to your office for each docket. Copies of this notice and the attached written *ex parte* package have also been delivered to the parties listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Rogers  
Executive Director

cc: Chairman Kennard  
Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth  
Commissioner Ness  
Commissioner Powell  
Commissioner Tristani  
W. Johnson  
A. Nathan

No. of Copies Made 0  
List ABOVE

# **PP Docket No. 00-67**

**From:** <johna@irev.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:03 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: John Anderson  
ADDRESS: 3740 Club Dr. #7101  
Duluth, GA 30096

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. Hollywood studios apparently claim that home recording is the same as theft of service and that this justifies limiting home taping. Your agency should protect consumers' rights to record and view DTV signals. The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service! In short, the Commission should take action to protect the interests of consumers in this proceeding. Thank you for reading my views.

As an owner of a current HDTV television system, I would be horrified to discover that this system is no longer capable of working with cable systems.

Finally, I would like to mention that Hollywood studios seem intent on destroying fair use in our society. The copyright law was created to promote creativity, and I do not think that this proposal encourages that creativity.

**From:** <jasonm@colortechtechnology.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:04 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Jason Markantes  
ADDRESS: 1075 Schukart  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. Hollywood studios apparently claim that home recording is the same as theft of service and that this justifies limiting home taping. Your agency should protect consumers' rights to record and view DTV signals. The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service! In short, the Commission should take action to protect the interests of consumers in this proceeding.

For further opinions and discussion by my peers, I recommend you look here:  
<http://slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=00/09/05/2114201>

Thank you for reading my views.

Sincerely,  
Jason

**From:** <510@mail.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:05 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Paul McElroy  
ADDRESS: 826 107th AVE SE  
Bellevue, WA 98004

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I urge you to side with Home Recording Rights Coalition in this issue. Please don't allow the MPAA (and RIAA) to eliminate Fair Use with cumbersome, unwanted, and downright Draconian technology.

Citizens soundly rejected similar "protection" schemes like DivX, and before that the more sinister Clipper Chip. I would also like to point out that the MPAA fought bitterly against the VCR. The mere capacity for piracy alongside playback and recording ability did not lead to the destruction of the home video business.

Please preserve the recognized right to Fair Use. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul McElroy

**From:** <resinator@netscape.net>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:06 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Bob Wilber  
ADDRESS: 555 AnyLane  
Chicago, IL 60640

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. Hollywood studios apparently claim that home recording is the same as theft of service and that this justifies limiting home taping. Your agency should protect consumers' rights to record and view DTV signals. The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service! In short, the Commission should take action to protect the interests of consumers in this proceeding. Thank you for reading my views as this is a VERY important matter.

Sincerely,  
Bob Wilber

**From:** <johnmill@pacificwest.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:07 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: John Mill  
ADDRESS: W 5502 Newbury CT  
Spokane, WA 99208

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. Hollywood studios apparently claim that home recording is the same as theft of service and that this justifies limiting home taping. Your agency should protect consumers' rights to record and view DTV signals. The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service! In short, the Commission should take action to protect the interests of consumers in this proceeding.

I often feel that there are certain corporate organizations that have more control of legal/policy issues than I do. I see this attempt by a certain such organization as just another way to deprive me of my rights in favor of their finical objectives.

Thanks for reading my views.

Sincerely,

John Mill

**From:** <dbarclay10@yahoo.ca>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:07 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: David Harris  
ADDRESS: 303 St. Patrick St. E.  
Fergus, Ontario, Canada, CA 94034

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I'd first like to say that, as a Canadian, your decisions will likely affect me directly. However, you may not feel that I have the privilege to tell you what to do. Indeed I don't :) However, you may want to listen to what I have to say, as an individual rather than as a citizen of any particular country.

The topic at hand is, of course, the MPAA's proposal that consumer recording devices be modified and legislated such that they don't record certain broadcast. Let's look at the pros and cons:

Pros:

- Copyright holders may broadcast show that were up to this point something you had to go to a movie theater for.
- Some industries will make more money, and it's not terribly likely that many will lose any. Except for maybe those who make video tapes.

That's all I can think of for pros, but keep in mind I'd rather not have this happen, so you can consider me biased.

Cons:

- This may lead to nobody being able to record anything from anywhere. How long would it be until every broadcast was claimed to have "Intellectual Property", and couldn't be recorded? I don't think that's so far off. Companies are supposed to make money, and by disallowing copies, they'll probably make more money.
- This is a bad precedent. If the MPAA and their associates wanted this, then perhaps they should have made recording devices which contained the features they want. Of course, the only way those devices would sell would be if they excersized monopolistic practices. So, they resort to the government to make it legislation, when in reality, the People(whom the government serves) don't want it. While people don't have the Right(as in constitutionally) to make copies of broadcasts, companies don't have the Right to make money, either, do they? Individuals do, but as far as I know, something as nebulous as a corporation



doesn't. Legislation either way should be a no-no. If the MPAA doesn't want people making copies of their programs, perhaps they should figure it out for themselves, and try to sell it to consumers. If every VCR manufacturer agrees (on the basis of possible profits alone - no other pressures/bribes), then the consumer will have no choice.

Hmm... A group of companies may decide that VCRs should not allow recording of certain broadcasts. Consumers have no choice. I thought the only way a consumer would have no choice was if a law was passed. Aren't these companies started to tread into the territory of governments?

Food for thought, eh?

Dave

**From:** <dmarc4179@yahoo.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:08 PM  
**Subject:** MPAA VCR Block

FROM:

NAME: David Marcantonio  
ADDRESS: 1216 Lyon  
Sanger, CA 93657

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I am outraged at the fact that the MPAA has so much influence over the entertainment industry. I am upset at the upcoming decision regarding VCRs or other recording devices that would block out some digital TV signals from being recorded. Who has the right to say what I can and can't record off of TV? What if I was a big football fan and couldn't record Super Bowl Sunday on tape because the MPAA says I can only record certain things except the Super Bowl? Why are we letting the MPAA decide what we can be entertained by? I don't think the original creator(s) of TV would want our watching be regulated. TV is a medium that can be used to change the world. If we start limiting what we can put on tape, who knows what the next step is. These companies are making way too much money already. There have been no proven stats on the money the MPAA loses each year due to people recording certain movies or programs. I doubt it's hurting the fat-cats in the MPAA. After the recent DeCSS ruling, I think the MPAA is getting power hungry to the point that they think they can go after anyone who tried to make copies of any programs or movies they own. Back to the point of the VCRs or recording devices that would regulate what we can record on digital TV; who says someone won't come up with a way to bypass that block? DVD was thought to be foolproof encryption. Look what a 16 year old boy did to DVD encryption. He got the tails of the MPAA in a flurry. So I ask that you stop letting the MPAA regulate what we can record in our homes. What we do in our homes is our business. I don't want any of the MPAA's business in my house. In fact, I would consider the MPAA to be a mob. A mob of money hungry corporations out to stop everything our freedoms stand for.

Sincerely,  
David Marcantonio

**From:** <jbarnes@sgi.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:08 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Jesse Barnes  
ADDRESS: 2753 Buena Point Ct.  
San Jose, CA 95121

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. The MPAA and its associated bodies seem to be claiming that home recording is the same as theft of service and that this justifies limiting home taping. I find this sort of reasoning to be a slap in the face of consumers of this technology. I don't need a 'conscience' in the form of MPAA created hardware to prevent me from doing something illegal. In fact, the whole idea of the MPAA preventing me from recording movies or shows that I'd like to watch another time insults me. I'm sure that they'd like me to pay them every time I turn on my TV or VCR or DVD player, but I'd rather not, especially when I've paid them once already (e.g. ordering cable, buying a DVD, tuning in to broadcasts paid for by advertising).

Please protect consumers' rights to record and view DTV signals. The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service! In short, the Commission should take action to protect the interests of consumers in this proceeding. Thank you for reading my views.

Thanks,  
Jesse Barnes

**From:** <johnmill@pacificwest.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:08 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: John Mill  
ADDRESS: W 5502 Newbury CT  
Spokane, WA 99208

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. Hollywood studios apparently claim that home recording is the same as theft of service and that this justifies limiting home taping. Your agency should protect consumers' rights to record and view DTV signals. The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service! In short, the Commission should take action to protect the interests of consumers in this proceeding.

I often feel that there are certain corporate organizations that have more control of legal/policy issues than I do. I see this attempt by a certain such organization as just another way to deprive me of my rights in favor of their financial objectives.

Thanks for reading my views.

Sincerely,

John Mill

**From:** <mike1075@hotmail.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:09 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Michael Marsh  
ADDRESS: 9050 Markville Dr  
Dallas, TX 75243

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

This is a form letter, but I have read it and I do care about this issue. Please take the time to read or at least understand how I (A consumer of these products) feel here. I work during the day. I pay for cable. I pay for a VCR. I have the right to record something that comes on while I am at my office making the money to pay for cable. I work 40-60 hrs a week as an IT professional in the DFW area. Sometimes I am not home to see what I want. I would like to be able to record whatever I want, whenever I want. Isn't that what I pay for?

Thank you,  
Michael Marsh

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. Hollywood studios apparently claim that home recording is the same as theft of service and that this justifies limiting home taping. Your agency should protect consumers' rights to record and view DTV signals. The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service! In short, the Commission should take action to protect the interests of consumers in this proceeding. Thank you for reading my views.

**From:** <roy.franz@mindspring.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:09 PM  
**Subject:** Cable TV and recording

FROM:

NAME: Roy Franz  
ADDRESS: 1608 Winchester Way  
Roseville, CA 95661

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I am disturbed to once again hear that my ability to make fair use of copyrighted content is under attack, this time by the cable and satellite TV industry. Recording video, whether it be broadcast, cable, or satellite for the purpose of time shifting or other personal uses has been, is, and in the digital age remains to be fair use. Allowing the content providers to preemptively decide what is and is not fair use by means of copy protection hardware will effectively snuff out such uses, with little or no recourse by the consumer. With the advent of bad legislation like the DMCA, it would even be illegal to circumvent poor copy protection to allow fair use. Please consider the consumer in this, and don't handcuff us to make Time-Warner and other media giants richer.

Thanks for your consideration,  
Roy Franz

**From:** <s064308@admiral.umsl.edu>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:10 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Michael Kimberlin  
ADDRESS: 1741 Ardmore Creek Dr.  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. Hollywood studios apparently claim that home recording is the same as theft of service and that this justifies limiting home taping. Your agency should protect consumers' rights to record and view DTV signals. The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service! In short, the Commission should take action to protect the interests of consumers in this proceeding. Thank you for reading my views.

I sincerely hope that a statement can be sent to the MPAA that the consumers will not stand for these sorts of attempts.

Yours very truly,  
Michael Kimberlin

**From:** <kim@mak.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:11 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: John Kim  
ADDRESS: 90 Fairmont St  
Arlington, MA 02474

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I would like to comment on your upcoming decision as to whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital broadcasting systems. I would like to point out an analgous situation which has already played out in the audio industry.

About 10 years ago, DAT (digital audio tape) players were on the verge of entering the marketplace. The recording industry lobbied against them, and managed to pass legislation which prevented consumer DATs from being able to produce second generation copies. The rationale behind this limitation was to prevent piracy, but the practical effect was to limit DAT's usefulness to consumers. Not only were these players incapable of producing second generation copies of copyrighted works, they also could not produce second generation copies of consumer-produced recordings. As a result, DAT players never caught on, and consumers are now using MP3, CD-R, and various other digital formats in lieu of DAT players.

The same situation is developing with digital video. Due to the nature of digital signals, the only way to prohibit copying of one type of digital signal is to prohibit copying of all types of digital signals. A partial restriction is ludicrously easy to bypass with current technology and software - that is why software companies have for the most part given up trying to copy-protect their software (which is much easier to copy than digital video or audio).

So any system that attempts to block recording of copyrighted signals will by necessity have to block all types of signals. As such, your decision on this matter will not only affect whether VCRs can record copyrighted digital broadcasts, it will also affect whether the everyday John Doe can use his VCR to make a copy of the tape he made of his daughter's birthday using his digital camcorder.

The future of consumer-level video recorders (camcorders) is what is at stake here. Most anyone would agree that the economic, social, and artistic contribution of personal video recorders has been nothing short of revolutionary in the last 15 years. A decision to prohibit VCRs from recording digital transmissions would halt the transition of home-made video into the



digital realm, just like DATs did to audio. And it will only be a temporary measure, sidestepped with the introduction of newer technologies, just like MP3, CD-R, etc. did to DAT.

Not only should the Commission should consider the rights of consumers and fair use on this issue, it should also consider the economic impact this decision will have on the future of the camcorder market. If DAT players are any guide, a decision to prohibit digital recording has the potential to stagnate the technological advancement of the consumer digital video market for a decade or longer.

Sincerely,  
John Kim

**From:** <mfarver@texas.net>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:13 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Mark Farver  
ADDRESS: 12100 Metric Blvd Apt 1922  
Austin, TX 78758

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. Frankly I find the current efforts of the major content providers troublesome. Not just because they are taking steps to deeply control how I use their content but also because their efforts are raising the level of technology required to be a content provider. If I create a movie today I cannot record it to DVD, despite that format increasing popularity. To do so would require thousands of dollars in licensing and setup fees. Digital technology has brought the ability to create content as good as the industries.. and for very little cost. For less than \$15,000 I can purchasing editing and recording equipment that would allow me to create a movie as good as any studio but the only place I can distribute it would be the internet. Digital home VCRs that could only record "approved" content sound like censorship...and I might find that I cannot record anything.

The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service! In short, the Commission should take action to protect the interests of consumers in this proceeding. Thank you for reading my views.

Sincerely,  
Mark Farver

**From:** <nride@uswest.net>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:13 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Bruce Ide  
ADDRESS: 1225 B North Centaur Circle  
Lafayette, CO 80026

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed.

I submit that this issue is not about me recording "Titanic" for later viewing. This issue is about control. The MPAA wants to be the sole source of their movies. Ultimately they want the consumer to pay them each time he views their movie. If they control the hardware and they control the distribution, then they can implement their pay per view vision of how the world should be.

I further submit that this is an obvious and incredible erosion of the rights of the consumer to control his own viewing habits. It is a land grab by the MPAA, an attempt to eliminate any remainder of "Fair use" from our IP laws.

When they control the hardware, they will control the process of content creation and no one not sanctioned by them will be able to create content. And they who control the content control the future, Mr. Winston.

You have an excellent chance to send them a clear signal that you will not put their greed before the rights of the consumer. I would like you to go back there and tell them that you will not allow their blatant land grab. They are stifling innovation and hampering progress, not us.

Sincerely,

Bruce M. Ide, Jr

**From:** <t-eugenz@microsoft.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:18 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Eugene Zarakhovsky  
ADDRESS: 15850 NE 40th Street, D215  
Redmond, WA 98052

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. Hollywood studios apparently claim that home recording is the same as theft of service and that this justifies limiting home taping. Your agency should protect consumers' rights to record and view DTV signals. The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service! In short, the Commission should take action to protect the interests of consumers in this proceeding.

I usually work from 11am to midnight. My only access to prime-time programming is by recording it on a TiVo, and watching it later at night. If I were unable to record parts of the broadcast, I would be unable to watch the cable programming I pay for. This would make an HDTV rather useless for me.

Thank you for reading my views.

Sincerely,

Eugene Zarakhovsky

**From:** <derek.moyes@poboxes.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:19 PM  
**Subject:** Recent MPAA request to limit recording from TV

FROM:

NAME: Derek Moyes  
ADDRESS: 8310 Brookline  
Universal City, TX 78148

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I firmly believe the MPAA has gone too far this time. I cannot believe they think that consumers would not want to freely record what they will from whatever media source (broadcast TV, cable, satellite, internet) they can get.

I imagine that 98% of the people that would be affected by this legislation are honest, law-abiding citizens who merely want to record a television program because it is inconvenient for them to watch it when it is broadcast. That is what I do.

If current VCRs cannot record digital TV because a new copyright scheme is put in place then what, throw them all away and buy new ones?

If current (on the market) digital TVs can no longer show digital broadcasts because of a new copyright scheme, throw them away too? Even when the early models cost well over \$10,000 each? Maybe this does not seem like much to you, but I'm sure owners of those digital TVs would disagree.

And this new copyright scheme, how does it help consumers? It helps them like Divx helped them, right? By letting consumers "purchase" a disc with a movie on it, but then not allowing it to play on any but the first recorder it's put into. We can see how hot sales of Divx discs are.

Seems to me this is just another scheme to get more money out of the average consumer. Let's see: New VCR, \$100. New media (can't use the old media, it's not "certified") \$10 each. And where will it get them? Consumers aren't buying Divx, and they are buying DVDs (by the millions) because at least the copyright protection scheme on a DVD isn't utterly ridiculous.

It is a bit much, not allowing you to play a DVD from America on a DVD player from Europe. I mean, what if you are in the military and you get transferred? It does you no good to take your DVD discs with you, because no European players can play them. And it does you no good to take your player with you, because it can't play any discs you buy there...

This new attempt to limit our freedoms must not succeed.

Sincerely,

Derek Moyes

**From:** <kpako@yahoo.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:20 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Dare Obasanjo  
ADDRESS: 150 Pinetree Circle  
Decatur, GA 30032

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. The MPAA apparently claims that home recording is the same as theft of service and that this justifies limiting home taping. Your agency should protect consumers' rights to record and view DTV signals. The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service!

For too long the MPAA has tried to rob consumers of their rights and although they have succeeded to a great extent with the Digital Millenium Copyright Act which has enabled them to create their DVD monopoly (and such travesties as region encoding) this will indeed be the final nail in the consumer rights coffin if this law is allowed to pass.

Thank you for reading my views.

Sincerely

Dare Obasanjo

**From:** <brarr@hotmail.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:20 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: bradley roberts  
ADDRESS: 1478 palm st  
san luis obispo, CA 93401

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. Hollywood studios apparently claim that home recording is the same as theft of service and that this justifies limiting home taping. Your agency should protect consumers' rights to record and view DTV signals. The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service! In short, the Commission should take action to protect the interests of consumers in this proceeding. Thank you for reading my views.

I very rarely tape a show as most of what is on tv pretty much sucks, but if there is something on that I wish to watch but cannot be there, I demand the right to tape it and watch it later, and watch it as many times as I want.

brad roberts



**From:** <seidel@andrews.edu>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:21 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Kevin Seidel  
ADDRESS: 1234 147th Ave SE  
Bellevue, WA 98007

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed.

Both the consumer electronic and the entertainment industry are in business to make a profit. However, FCC rules are made in the public interest. The supreme court has found that home recording is legal. It is fair use of copyrighted material. It is extremely important to maintain fair use as we transition from analog to digital media. Permitting copy "protection" will cause interoperability problems and take away constitutional rights. Copy "protection" would simple stop this fair use. People would not start paying for copies they would do without. Please keep the system simple. Let citizen have the means to exercise their right to home recording unencumbered by scrambling or "protection".

Sincerely,

Kevin Seidel

**From:** <joe@bouchard.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:22 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Joe Bouchard  
ADDRESS: 8 Arundel Woods Drive  
Arundel, ME 04046

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. Hollywood studios apparently claim that home recording is the same as theft of service and that this justifies limiting home taping. Your agency should protect consumers' rights to record and view DTV signals. The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service! In short, the Commission should take action to protect the interests of consumers in this proceeding. Thank you for reading my views.

We frequently "time-shift" by taping a show at one time and watching it at another time. This isn't stealing from anyone.

Sincerely,  
Joe Bouchard

**From:** <robhr@core.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:23 PM  
**Subject:** MPAA suggestions for VCR copy protection

FROM:

NAME: Robert Rati  
ADDRESS: 2540 Crooked Creek Rd. Apt 202  
Schaumburg, IL 60173

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

From what I understand, the MPAA is trying to succeed where the Cable companies failed many years ago with analog cable. Digital broadcasts should be treated the same as analog ones. It is currently legal to "time-shift" analog TV, so it should be legal to do so with digital TV. It doesn't matter if the show being taped is a pay-per-view movie that the owner has legally purchased, or a sit-com on Monday night. If this "protection" is granted, it is only a stone's throw away from the MPAA controlling which shows we can tape and which we can't. VCR's have implemented copy protection through tape. It is extremely difficult (if not impossible) to copy a VCR tape, so the same kind of thing should be done with digital movies and their media format. Controlling what is taped off the TV is wrong, and I hope the FCC sticks with the earlier ruling that applied to analog TV and applies it to digital TV.

Sincerely,  
Robert H. Rati

**From:** <tgibbs@bu.edu>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:24 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Terrell Gibbs  
ADDRESS: 79 Paul Gore St., Apt. 2  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I want to urge the FCC not to accept the imposition of limitations in the capabilities of consumer video recording equipment that could potentially be used at some future time to compromise the right of the consumer to record TV broadcasts (whether air or cable) for later viewing. Thank you for reading my views.

**From:** <gingersnap@iname.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:29 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Ginger Freiling  
ADDRESS: One Baxter Parkway  
Deerfield, IL 60015

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. Your agency should protect consumers' rights to record and view DTV signals. The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service! In short, the Commission should take action to protect the interests of consumers in this proceeding. This kind of legislation reminds me of George Orwell's "1984". Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,  
Ginger Freiling

**From:** <jggramlich@yahoo.com>  
**To:** DC.CMGI(AKitey)  
**Date:** Tue, Sep 5, 2000 5:30 PM  
**Subject:** PP Docket No. 00-67

FROM:

NAME: Joshua Gramlich  
ADDRESS: 200 S. Azusa Ave. # 1  
Azusa, CA 91702

This message was sent to:

Dear Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy of message text follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

I understand the Commission soon will be deciding whether VCRs can be hooked up to digital cable systems, and whether home recording from digital cable will be allowed. Hollywood studios apparently claim that home recording is the same as theft of service and that this justifies limiting home taping. Your agency should protect consumers' rights to record and view DTV signals. The Commission should respect the Supreme Court's ruling in the Betamax case, and not equate private, noncommercial home recording with theft of service! In short, the Commission should take action to protect the interests of consumers in this proceeding. Thank you for reading my views.

The MPAA is trying to obtain a monopoly of the medium with which the consumer views content created by the members of the MPAA. Not only would the consumer then have to deal with the fact that a few large companies produce most of the content in the "entertainment" industry, but also those few large companies would control how the user may view or use that content. Allowing them to gain a stranglehold on the medium as well as the information would be very dangerous and detrimental to the consumer.

Sincerely,

Joshua Gramlich